

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-2 and 4-8 are pending and claim 8 is withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-7 are amended, and claim 3 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-7 contain allowable subject matter. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks below.

**I. Information Disclosure Statement**

The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed March 3, 2004 has been partially acknowledged by the Examiner. A copy of the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. The Examiner is requested to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered all the references disclosed in the IDS by initialing all the references in the Form PTO-1449 and returning to the undersigned a copy.

Further, another IDS was filed on August 9, 2005. The Examiner is requested to return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information.

**II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Shizukuish (U.S. Patent No. 6,781,178). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

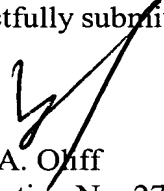
Independent claim 1 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and therefore defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4-7 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Further, rejoinder of claim 8 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:YSC/tls

Attachment:

March 3, 2004 Form PTO-1449

Date: September 20, 2005

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